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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am an engineer, living and working in the San Francisco Bay Area. Digital connections are an ever-growing part of life and culture in the United States, and access to the Internet has rapidly become essential for school, business, and leisure. Despite the high-tech companies that surround us here, there is less competition than I would like to provide us with that access.

We are fortunate to have found an alternative to the local telephone company. Our Internet Service Provider offers fast and affordable Internet access, along with everyday telephone service, free of the so-called "bundles" and spotty customer service that prevail when there's only one game in town.

Part of our ISP's ability to offer this service rides on its access to last-mile copper connections to the homes in this area. If the local phone company is left free to charge what it wishes for that access, I have no doubt that the result would be a squeeze that would, in very short order, leave themselves cemented as our only -- and expensive -- option.

That's not a business climate that I want to see, so I'm writing to ask you to ensure that competition remains vibrant not just here in the Bay Area, but throughout the United States. Keep the regulations in place that allow for unbundled access to last-mile copper connections and to inter-city data links.

Eric Petrich